

#### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 3, line 2, "is current" has been changed to "is a current magnitude" for clarity as recited in claim 20.

In claim 23, line 2, "voltage controlled oscillator" has been changed to "phase locked loop" since the specification did not clearly support the claimed limitation of claim 23. Claim 6 recites the similar claimed subject of claim 23 and the specification supports the claimed subject matter at page 14, lines 11-14.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Hardin et al. and Kim et al. all are related to spread spectrum clock generators, however, the prior fails to show or suggest a method or apparatus for delaying a periodic signal by a delay element, wherein the periodic signal having periodic signal cycles with corresponding time durations, wherein the time durations of the periodic signal cycles are substantially identical and thereby generating an output signal, wherein the output signal has output signal cycles with corresponding time durations, and wherein each of the time durations of the output signal cycles is a function of a magnitude of a control signal during the time duration, wherein the magnitude of the control signal varying smoothly over a plurality of the periodic signal cycles.

SR  
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